

ABSTRACT

INFORMATION ACCESS

5 An apparatus 100 is provided to enable information sets stored in an
information system and accessible over a communications network to be shared
among a group of users. The apparatus 100 is provided with data storage to store
a user profile for each user, each user profile comprising at least one keyword
expressing an interest of the respective user, and for storing meta-information
10 relating to information sets stored in the information system. The apparatus is
provided with means to enable a first user to input an information set, to generate
meta-information for that information set, to compare the generated meta-
information with stored user profiles of the other users and thereby to alert the
first user to the identity of one or more users having a shared interest in the input
15 information set.

 The apparatus 100 is also enabled to compare the user profile of a first
user with profiles of other users to enable the first user to identify other users
having similar interests and to enable the first user to send an alert message to one
or more of those selected users.

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